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capital," would certainly not have been made had the subject been more broadly treated. Of all the state debts incurred down to 1838 over one-quarter, or \$43,000,000, were for the purpose of aiding railways; a debt of probably even greater magnitude was placed upon the local governments for this purpose; and large sums in addition were given outright by both state and local units.

The errors into which the author has fallen are those of lack of discrimination rather than of misstatement of fact. In this last respect the volume may indeed be relied upon with full assurance of accuracy, and it is for his service in this regard that the author deserves our thanks. It is doubtful, however, whether the readableness or utility of the volume is enhanced by a subdivision of its 273 pages into three "books" and twenty-three chapters.

Princeton University.

ERNEST L. BOGART.

*The Book of Wheat, an Economic History and Practical Manual of the Wheat Industry.* By PETER TRACY DONDLINGER, formerly Professor of Mathematics in Fairmount College. (New York: Orange Judd Company, 1908. Pp. xi, 369. \$2.)

The topics discussed in this book may be grouped under two heads, namely, the cultural and the commercial aspects of the wheat industry as applied to conditions prevailing in the United States. Under the first the author describes the wheat plant, discusses its natural environment and the ways and means by which it is improved, treats of all the cultural phases of wheat production such as soil preparation and tillage, crop rotation, the use of fertilizers, irrigation, diseases and insect enemies, the methods of harvesting, etc., and compares the yields secured and the cost of production in the different wheat growing sections of this country with the corresponding data for other countries.

Under the second head, the commercial side of the wheat industry, the book considers transportation, storage, marketing, prices, consumption, production, and movement. The work contains seventeen chapters and in nearly every case a whole chapter is devoted to each of the different topics enumerated.

Historical notes on cultural practices, the evolution of our seeding and harvesting machinery, the development of the thresher,

the growth of the mill, and on other phases of this kind form a commendable feature of the work. Special value is also inherent in the discussions of the commerce of this great and staple crop. The movements of the grain are followed from the local market to the seaboard and to the foreign country. While the author treats many of these topics from an economic point of view, the book, as its title indicates, does not present an abstract study of the economics involved in the wheat industry, but endeavors rather to lay before the reader descriptive and statistical facts the possession of which is necessary before conclusions can be drawn or solutions of problems suggested. Every step in this direction must be welcomed, for rural economics has not received the attention it merits or rather demands.

The illustrations, as a rule, are well chosen. An extensive and fairly exhaustive bibliography in so far as American publications are considered shows that the data presented were derived from the latest and most reliable sources.

J. I. SCHULTE.

Washington, D. C.

*Mother Earth: A Proposal for the Permanent Reconstruction of Our Country Life.* By MONTAGUE FORDHAM, with preface by J. A. HOBSON. (London: The Open Road Publishing Company, 1908. Pp. 157. 1s. net.)

This is an interesting little book. The author's aim is to outline a scheme for the rehabilitation of agriculture and rural social life in England as a remedy for rural depopulation and the unemployed in cities.

The plan for the reconstruction of agriculture has for its object "the increased happiness, health, and efficiency of the people, the production of more of the nation's food, and a wider distribution of wealth." The means proposed for the accomplishment of these ends are: (1) to grant to all citizens the right of access to land and capital; (2) the government regulation of the markets; and (3) state intervention to raise the wages of agricultural laborers and to fix a legal minimum wage throughout England.

That these proposals involve stupendous difficulties the author himself recognizes, for his outline of the reconstruction of rural life